

Lower Long Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District
Annual Meeting Minutes – July 28, 2007

The open meeting notices for the Annual Meeting of the LLLPRD scheduled for 9:00 AM on July 28, 2007 at the Sampson Town Hall, were posted as required.

Commissioners present:

Pat Andress, Diane Dahl, Jim Dahl, Chris Haller and Harlyn Misfeldt

Others in Attendance: 35 (Attendance Sign-In Sheet On File)

Following the viewing of “The Lower Long Lake Water Trail,” a 14-minute video developed by Kurt Lothe, Pat Andress, Chairperson called the Annual Meeting to order. Jim Dahl led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Pat introduced the members of the LLLPRD Board including Diane Dahl. This appointment to fill the unexpired term of Patty Proehl was approved by the Board earlier this morning.

Minutes: Lou Frase moved the minutes be approved as published in the newsletter and posted on the website. The motion was seconded by Peg Enders and passed.

Chairperson and Committee Reports:

Chairperson report: Pat highlighted the LLLPRD Management Plan and the progress currently being made on the Shoreland Restoration Pilot Project and indicated longer reports were scheduled later in the meeting.

Clean Boats/Clean Waters: Pat listed three components of this important program designed to stop aquatic invasive species: education, signage and monitoring. She reported the monitoring she and Patty Proehl did at the boat landing during the 3 day muskie tournament indicated the need for volunteers and creative planning to continue this effort. Two UW-Eau Claire students, who were fulfilling their 30-hour service learning requirement, completed the most recent monitoring during the week of July 4th. Their experiences were positive as they talked to 100 boaters providing them with information and written materials. Pat also reported that Jay Bearson had voluntarily made and posted signage at the boat landing at Morris-Erickson Park. It is very noticeable and appreciated by the district.

Conferences: Pat indicated she had gained a state perspective by serving on the Wisconsin Association of Lakes (WAL) Board. She encouraged members of the Lake District to attend the upcoming conference on August 10th at the Technical College in Eau Claire.

Fish and Water Quality Committee: Chairperson, Lou Frase, presented “LLLPRD Lake Quality and Fish Stocking Committee Report,” a comprehensive and informative report, complete with PowerPoint slides (copy on file). Topics addressed included monitoring efforts (water quality, fish, vegetation and crayfish), building loon platforms proposal and boardwalk(s) in designated sensitive areas.

Buzz Sorge, DNR, provided historical and additional information about the importance of critical habitat and sensitive lake areas and the regulatory responsibility of the DNR. The high water mark has been established. A pier or boardwalk reduces the availability of light and divides the total area into smaller segments. This would not be desirable given the 49 plant species and wildlife habitat found in the sensitive lake areas. While access to the lake is a right, he noted a pier is not a right of a property owner. The DNR has said a permit would not be granted and efforts to resolve this issue with the property owner are just getting started. He recommended that Lake District members contact the DNR if they see something happening and have questions or concerns.

Foundation Report: Dick Baer gave the Foundation report. He indicated two different entities are working to protect land around the lake from development. 1. The Foundation owns land, all located on Lower Long Lake and keeps it in a native/natural state. No development is permitted. Access may be permitted but use for activities such as hunting or snowmobile riding is prohibited. 2. The West Wisconsin Land Trust helps landowners establish conservation easements that limit density and one such easement located on the lake was recently completed. The tax benefits/consequences are different for individuals working with either entity.

Buzz noted both options protect land into perpetuity. He elaborated on the WWLT appraisal process and noted the 17-year tax-deductible period was expected to revert back to a 4-6 year period at the end of 2007.

The district was asked to elect persons to fill 2 directorships. Dick Baer reported he and Denny Zacho have completed their terms and are willing to serve another term if elected. Dick Baer and Denny Zacho were nominated and elected to fill the open positions as LLLPRD Foundation directors.

In answer to a question, Dick replied no new property was added to the Foundation's holdings this year.

Publicity Committee: Pat introduced Gail Misfeldt and explained Gail had been appointed as recording secretary for this meeting. Gail read the report Lesley Sauls had submitted with the exception of the last section, that would have preempted the presentation of a certificate to Pat later in the meeting. Harlyn expressed appreciation on behalf of the Board, for the competent work Lesley does as Newsletter editor. She manages to send the Newsletter at the right time so adequate notice of the annual meeting and budget hearing is provided along with other news in one mailing, minimizing cost to the district. Lesley needs volunteers to handle "Welcome Wagon" responsibilities. The Committee sign-up sheet was circulated. (Report and Committee Sheet on file)

Treasurer's Report: Harlyn indicated the column with the heading "Amount Spent to Date (6 – 15 –07)" in the (on file) "Proposed 2007 – 2008 Budget" and as published in the newsletter and in the distributed handout for this meeting, accurately reported monies spent prior to June 15th. He reported a \$202.00 bill for the Summer Newsletter had been paid bringing the total spent to date for Publicity to \$696.35. There were no questions on this report.

Audit Report: Diane Dahl reported she had audited the Treasurer's records and found no discrepancies.

Review and Approval of Proposed Budget: The (on file) "Proposed 2007 – 2008 Budget" with 2 options as published in the newsletter and in the distributed handout for this meeting, was introduced. There were no questions or comments concerning this proposal. Given the Board's strong support for Option 2, Harlyn moved acceptance of Option 2. Sara Baer seconded the motion that was passed without any recorded negative votes.

After a short break, the meeting resumed. Pat reminded property owners that Jo Heuschele would be scheduling training programs for volunteers who are willing to help with identifying and monitoring Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS).

Election of a Commissioner: After indicating the LLLPRD board is required to meet quarterly in addition to the annual meeting, Pat called for nominations for a commissioner. Peg Enders moved to elect Diane Dahl as a commissioner for a three-year term. Greg Peterson seconded the motion and it carried.

Harlyn explained this action would mean the new chairperson would now need to appoint someone to fill the position of a commissioner for two years. He also indicated the Board needs to determine what the definition of a meeting is according to the law that governs lake districts, i.e. could a conference call be considered as a meeting. Chris Haller indicated a location for people who might wish to attend such a meeting would need to be provided to fulfill the Open Meeting Law requirements. Peg Enders expressed the opinion that if lake residents who are working are relying on retired individuals to volunteer as LLLPRD commissioners, consideration must be given to alternative methods of meeting such as email and/or telephone because retired individuals may also travel.

Pat thanked individuals who had been especially helpful to the Board during the past year while she served as chairperson. Lenny Seyberth asked Lake District members to express their appreciation to Pat by joining him in a round of applause. Harlyn added his thank you to Pat on behalf of the board and district. He presented Pat with a certificate and indicated a \$25.00 donation to the Foundation would be made in her honor.

Old Business

LLLPRD Management Plan: Buzz Sorge, DNR displayed one of 145 printed copies of the LLLPRD Management Plan. He said this plan should be governing not only the actions of the LLLPRD but also those of the Town of Sampson, Chippewa County and the Department of Natural Resources as their future actions affect Lower Long Lake. We are not making any new lakes and this lake is a keystone area lake. It is recognized as an economic driver. This plan must be dynamic and reviewed annually to assure it remains relevant.

His professional and fact-filled PowerPoint presentation included references to historical data, surveys and projects, current information and future challenges and implementation questions. He acknowledged that Larrabee Lake is a part of the LLLPRD; indicated that most of the nutrient-loading occurs with the spring runoff in February and March; and revealed that Lower Long Lake was the 6th or 7th lake fishers put their boat into during a recent multi-body fishing tournament. Buzz said the negative impacts of development doubled between 1995 and 2005 and are due in large part to the increased size of structures which bear little resemblance to the small cottages of past eras. The only controllable component is in the developed areas around the lake. He pointed out that in order to protect the lake water quality and possibly improve it slightly within a decade, at least 75% of the property owners must do everything within their power to control stormwater runoff and at least 100 developed lots must participate in shoreland restorations. In addition, all lake-users must take the necessary precautions to prevent the spread of AIS into Lower Long Lake and the district needs to continue to monitor and control any rusty crayfish that live in the lake.

In closing, he said the LLLPRD must decide what to do, when to do it, who will do it and how it will be paid for. He recommended the LLLPRD Management Plan be implemented and called on the Board to

- provide the necessary oversight,
- determine the frequency of review and
- define the responsibility for the implementation phase.

Shoreland Restoration Project: Amanda Kosner introduced herself and reported on the Shoreland Restoration and Stormwater Runoff Pilot Project. The project was begun on April 1, 2007 and will be completed by December 31, 2007. Amanda distributed Thank You notes to Pat Andress and Dan Masterpole and other individuals who have contributed in many different ways to the successes already achieved. Using a PowerPoint presentation, Amanda explained how the project started and the accomplishments expected. She listed five ways property owners can participate:

- Sign up for a free site evaluation.
- Attend a workshop and help plant a rain garden.

- Take the tour of the demonstration sites.
- Access updated project information on the district website, www.illprd.org and
- Tell your neighbors.

Amanda agreed to talk individually with property owners following the meeting. She will be available near a display of photos she had created to supplement her report and stimulate interest in her work.

Signage: Pat reported that the District had purchased 3 Loon Watch signs that Harlyn framed and Ray Andress installed on new fence posts. Two will be posted on the Dinger property, one visible upon entering and one visible upon exiting Herde Lake. Diane Dahl expressed a willingness to put the remaining loon sign that had been on display during the meeting in the bog near her property. The Board is willing to acquire signs as additional locations for placements are identified.

New Business: The call for new business yielded silence.

Adjourn: Dave Larson moved the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded and passed.

Submitted by: Gail Misfeldt

Minutes Approved by Board: ~~As Distributed~~ As Corrected September 4, 2007

_____ Gail Misfeldt _____, Secretary

Minutes Approved by District: As Distributed As Corrected

_____, Secretary _____ Date

Next Meeting: Last Saturday of July 2008